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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/815,317	03/22/2001	Timothy R. Kane	END9 2000 0168 US1	4656
44755	7590	08/11/2005	EXAMINER	
SHELLEY M. BECKSTRAND			MCCLELLAN, JAMES S	
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WOODLAWN, VA 24381			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3627	

DATE MAILED: 08/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/815,317	<b>Applicant(s)</b> KANE ET AL.
	<b>Examiner</b> James S. McClellan	<b>Art Unit</b> 3627

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --*  
**Period for Reply**

## A SHORTENED

THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.

REPLIES OR AMENDMENTS MUST BE FILED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF 35 U.S.C. 133(b). THIS STATEMENT, HOWEVER, MAY NOT PREJUDICE ANYONE  
after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any  
earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 January 2005.

2a)  This action is **FINAL**.                            2b)  This action is non-final.

3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## **Disposition of Claims**

4)  Claim(s) 1,4,8 and 9 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6)  Claim(s) 1, 4, 8, and 9 is/are rejected.

7)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)  The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a)  All b)  Some \* c)  None of:  
1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date .  
4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_ .  
5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6)  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### *Amendment*

1. Applicant's submittal of an amendment was entered on 1/21/05, wherein:
  - claims 1, 4, 8, and 9 are pending;
  - claims 2, 3, 5-7, 10, and 11 have been canceled; and
  - claims 1, 4, 8, and 9 have been amended.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 4, 8, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,668,253 (hereinafter "Thompson") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,055,516 (hereinafter "Johnson").

Regarding **claim 1**, Thompson discloses a method of maintaining synchronization of ledger accounts between various systems comprising the steps of: associating a plurality of companies within a company group, the companies using the same chart of accounts (see column 1, lines 48-51, "common chart of accounts"); maintaining a chart of accounts in a first system; periodically extracting from said chart of accounts account identification indicia and descriptive information for a given company (see column 25, line 40 – column 26, line 24); communicating

said indicia and information to a second system (see column 25, lines 44-46), storing said indicia and information in a data store of valid general ledger accounts associated with said company group for said given company (see column 25, lines 57-59).

Regarding **claim 4**, Thompson discloses an accounting system as set forth in detail for claim 1.

Regarding **claim 8**, Thompson discloses a program storage device embodying a program of instructions for maintaining synchronization of ledger accounts as set forth in detail for claim 1.

Regarding **claim 9**, Thompson discloses a computer program product for maintaining synchronization of ledger accounts as set forth in detail for claim 1.

Thompson fails to disclose the accounting system including a procurement system and a requisition/catalog system. Regarding the most recent amendment, Thompson fails to disclose maintaining data for a plurality of customer companies of an enterprise. It is noted that Thompson maintains data for companies associated with enterprise which are not “customer” companies.

Johnson teaches the use of an accounting system that coordinates a procurement system and a requisition/catalog system (see column 5, lines 24-40). Furthermore, it is noted that Johnson’s system maintains procurement data for a plurality of customer companies (see column 4, lines 40-50 and the paragraph bridging columns 4-5)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Thompson with the procurement/catalog system taught by Johnson, because the use of data synchronization in a procurement/catalog system will increase data integrity.

Additionally, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Thompson with maintain customer company information as taught by Johnson, because maintaining procurement information for customer companies allows the enterprise better accounting transparency regarding their business partners, wherein helping ensure that their partners are financially strong.

*Response to Arguments*

4. Applicant's arguments filed January 21, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant's arguments are moot in view of the new ground of rejection necessitated by Applicant's amendment. Applicant's arguments are mainly related to Thompson, but Johnson is relied upon to teach the newly added limitations.

*Conclusion*

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the

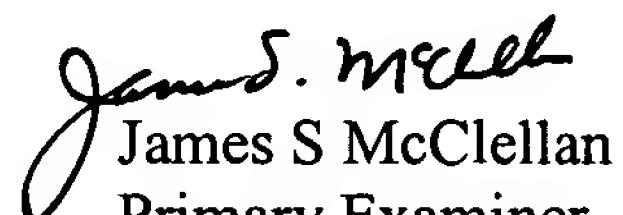
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statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James S. McClellan whose telephone number is (571) 272-6786. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30-6:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alexander Kalinowski can be reached on (571) 272-6771. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
James S. McClellan  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3627

jsm  
8/5/05